Health in All Policies Task Force Implementation Plan
Support Urban and Community Greening and Access to Green Spaces
Endorsed by the SGC on November 2, 2011

I.   The Health in All Policies Task Force

The Health in All Policies (HiAP) Task Force is a multi-agency effort to improve state policy and decision-making by encouraging collaborative work towards health and sustainability goals by incorporating health considerations into non-health policy areas. After an in-depth process that included input from health and policy experts, the public, and extensive Task Force discussions, the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) approved eleven priority recommendations and charged the Task Force with developing implementation plans.

The HiAP Task Force is comprised of the following agencies, departments, and offices: Air Resources Board; Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency; Department of Community Services and Development; Department of Education; Department of Finance; Department of Food and Agriculture; Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; Department of Housing and Community Development: Department of Justice; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Social Services; Department of Transportation; Environmental Protection Agency; Governor's Office of Planning and Research; Health and Human Services Agency; Labor and Workforce Development Agency; Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy (Funding was abolished in the 2011/12 budget; OGYVP will close on December 31, 2011.); Office of Traffic Safety. In addition, the Task Force is staffed and facilitated by the California Department of Public Health.

II.   Goals and Objectives

Goals

Aspirational Goal: All Californians have access to places to be active, including parks, green space, and healthy tree canopy.[1]

The aspirational goal above provided the structure for the development of recommendations to promote parks, urban and community greening, and places to be active and help achieve other important sustainability goals. For the purposes of this implementation plan, urban and community greening will be defined as community-based efforts to plan, plant, care for, and manage flora, structures, and spaces.[2] An

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[1] Health in All Policies Task Force Report to the Strategic Growth Council, December 3, 2010. Available at http://www.sgc.ca.gov/hiap/docs/publications/HiAP_Task_Force_Report.pdf.
[2] Urban Greening Planning Guidelines for Sustainable Communities, State of California, Strategic Growth Council, April, 2011. Available at: http://www.sgc.ca.gov/docs/funding/Urban_Greening_PLANNING_Guidelines_Approved_4-8-2011.pdf

important related term is "urban forestry," as defined in Public Resource Code 4799.09. Achievement of this aspirational goal will require efforts across California, both within and outside government, at the state, regional, and local levels, and over many years. This implementation plan represents a first step by the HiAP Task Force toward this goal.

This implementation plan outlines an initial set of activities to advance Recommendation I.C1., "Support urban greening and access to green spaces."[1] This was one of five recommendations made by the Task Force to advance the goal of improving access to parks, urban and community greening, and places to be active. For more information on additional HiAP Task Force recommendations related to promoting parks, urban and community greening, and places to be active, please refer to the *HiAP Task Force Report to the SGC.* [1]

<u>*Objectives*</u>

Three objectives will be pursued:

1. Support the establishment of a baseline tree canopy inventory.

2. Develop and disseminate information about the health, environmental, and economic co-benefits of parks, urban forestry, and urban and community greening to non-traditional partners.

3. Coordinate urban and community greening opportunities across other HiAP Task Force implementation activities and with other state agency workgroups.

III. Rationale

Urban and community greening has a wide range of health, economic, and environmental benefits. Trees provide shady, pleasant places to engage in physical activity and active transportation.[3] Physical activity protects against premature death, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, some cancers, hypertension, obesity, osteoporosis, and depression.[4] Shade from trees also provides protection during extreme heat events and from cancer-causing ultraviolet radiation.[5] Urban forests can lead to improved feelings of safety, which can benefit health either directly or indirectly through an increase in physical activity or social interaction.[6] Nature can be particularly beneficial to children, supporting the development of the senses, encouraging creativity,

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[3] Kathleen L. Wolf. "City trees, nature and physical activity," *Facility Management Journal* 20, no. 1 (2010): 50-54.

[4] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Physical Activity Fundamental to Preventing Disease. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 2002.

[5] Mona Saraiya, et al. "Interventions to Reduce Skin Cancer by Reducing Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation: A Systematic Review," *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 27, no. 5 (2004): 422-466.

[6] A.C.K. Lee and R. Maheswaran. "The Health Benefits of Urban Green Spaces: A Review of the Evidence," *Journal of Public Health* (2010): 1-11.

improving concentration, and providing restorative rehabilitation to children that are mentally or physically ill.[7]

Urban and community greening also has economic benefits, and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) reports that in 2009, urban forestry products and services supported 60,067 jobs in California and added $3.6 billion in value to the state's economy. An added benefit of urban forestry jobs is that they are not exportable. Further, a body of evidence supports the finding that landscaping and tree cover increase property value and home resale price.[8]

Urban and community greening's environmental benefits include air quality improvement, stormwater control, and air temperature reduction. Mature trees improve air quality by filtering out pollutants (e.g., ozone and nitrogen dioxide), intercepting particulate matter, and sequestering greenhouse gas emissions. Plant life protects watersheds, provides permeable surfaces in urban areas to reinforce stormwater management, and reduces pollutant loads in runoff. Mature tree canopies can also reduce air temperature two to ten degrees, helping to counteract the urban heat island effect, and can reduce residential air conditioning needs, decreasing energy demand.[9] The shade of one or two properly placed trees can reduce energy consumption by reducing annual air conditioning use by 2 to 8 percent.[10]

In order to support SGC objectives of promoting infill, reducing sprawl, and addressing climate change, the Task Force acknowledges that it is necessary to support the creation of environments that attract individuals to urban areas. Parks and trees are critical components of healthy and sustainable communities. The Task Force looks forward to leveraging existing work to improve health through greening across several state agencies, including the SGC's Proposition 84 Urban Greening Grant Program, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's (OPR) Local Government Roundtable series, CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry program, and the Department of Parks and Recreation's (Parks) efforts to increase access to parks for disadvantaged communities and to offer educational and engaging programs that encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

IV.   Resources

This project will be supported by contributed time from HiAP staff and staff in state agencies that work with and through local agencies in pursuit of urban and community greening projects. There are no direct funds to support this project.

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[7] Louv, Richard. Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature Deficit Disorder. Chapel Hill, NC : Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2005.

[8] Des Rosiers, F., Theriault, M., Kestens, Y., Villeneuve, P., 2002. Landscaping and house values: an empirical investigation. J. Real Estate Res. 23, 139–161.

[9] H. Akbari. "Shade Trees Reduce Building Energy Use and CO_2 Emissions from Power Plants," *Environmental Pollution* 116, Supplement 1 (2002): S119-S126.

[10] McPherson, E.G. and J.R. Simpson. 2001. Effects of California's urban forests on energy use and potential savings from large-scale tree planting. Davis, CA: USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Center for Urban Forest Research

V.   Workplan Narrative

<u>Objective 1</u>: Support the establishment of a baseline tree canopy inventory.

<u>Action Step 1.1</u>: Encourage local governments to conduct tree canopy assessments.

Using survey results from the OPR Annual Planning survey (available January 2012), CAL FIRE will follow up with local governments that are not already conducting tree canopy assessments to identify barriers to establishing an inventory and encourage them to conduct assessments in order to determine baseline canopy and identify vacant canopy sites. CAL FIRE technical assistance staff will direct local agencies to existing tools and resources that will be located on CAL FIRE's and OPR's websites as discussed in Action Step 2.2.

<u>Action Step 1.2</u>: Share the findings of CAL FIRE's pilot project to assess San Jose area tree canopy using high-resolution satellite imagery.

Local agencies interested in assessing their own tree canopy can learn from the methods and cost analysis information that CAL FIRE gleans from their pilot project to examine San Jose's tree canopy and assess tree canopy measurement methodology. CAL FIRE and OPR will collaborate to develop a strategy for sharing the lessons learned with local agencies. Possible strategies include the SGC's Sustainable Communities Learning Network and OPR's Local Government Roundtables.

The results of CAL FIRE's tree canopy assessment pilot in San Jose may be useful to the SGC in its work to assist state and local entities in sustainable community planning and meeting other climate change goals. Because tree canopy is an important aspect of urban and community greening, resource-efficient methods to assess tree canopy could help grantees and applicants of the Urban Greening Planning Grant Program as they develop master urban greening plans. The SGC will provide a forum for presentation of the pilot tree canopy assessment results during an SGC meeting to facilitate sharing of this important information.

<u>Objective 2</u>: Develop and disseminate information about the health, environmental, and economic co-benefits of parks, urban forests, and urban and community greening to non-traditional partners.

<u>Action Step 2.1</u>: Create messages that highlight the co-benefits of parks and greening for new target audiences.

Target audiences include health care providers, mental health care providers, hospitals, corporate employers, local planners, local public works departments, and local health departments. Several existing efforts can serve as a starting place for the development of messages to include as part of a communications campaign, including CAL FIRE's research on the economic impacts of urban forestry products

and services, the University of Washington's *Green Cities: Good Health* project, the *Park Prescriptions* initiative of the Institute at the Golden Gate, and the National Park Service's *Healthy Parks, Healthy People* initiative adopted by many park agencies. To develop messages, HiAP staff will partner with Parks and CAL FIRE staff who have expertise in communication and message development. Messaging will convey the concept of parks as an integral part of the health care delivery system and will promote the "Find Recreation" website, a database encouraging the use of public lands for physical activity by providing location, access directions, satellite mapping to show facilities, and contact information.

Action Step 2.2: Encourage local implementation of urban and community greening through message and resource dissemination.

OPR will host a session of their statewide bimonthly Local Government Roundtable series for local government planners on the topic of urban and community greening and parks. During this Roundtable, OPR, Parks, CAL FIRE, and CDPH will share resources, messages, the status of urban and community greening funding, and the status of the State's tree canopy inventory including results from the Annual Planning Survey. As OPR updates its website, OPR will include an urban forestry section that may contain links to tools to support urban forests, messages about the co-benefits of urban forests, and best practices. CAL FIRE will support this effort by sharing and recommending content, including guidance on tree ordinance development, the Urban Forestry Management Plan Toolkit, and information on growing fruit trees in urban areas. Additional content may include discussion of financial resources available to support local implementation of urban greening, including links to the SGC's Funding Wizard, Energy Upgrade California, and local utility incentives for urban greening, including free shade trees. CAL FIRE will also provide information on how to contact local non-profit organizations involved in urban and community greening so that localities can access the resources and volunteer networks of such organizations. Parks will participate by sharing relevant content on the benefits of parks as green spaces.

HiAP staff will approach local government organizations, including the Institute for Local Government and the Local Government Commission, about opportunities to further distribute these messages. HiAP staff will also approach the Integrated Healthcare Association (regarding greening at and near health care facilities) and the California Conference of Local Health Officers about disseminating messages relevant to their organizations' members. The California Urban Forest Council and numerous local and statewide non-profit organizations that focus on urban and community greening will be invited to participate in message development and dissemination, and can serve as a resource for local governments pursuing urban and community greening.

Objective 3: Coordinate community greening opportunities across other HiAP Task Force implementation activities and with other state agency workgroups.

<u>Action Step 3.1</u>: *Incorporate action steps that advance urban and community greening as implementation plans for other Task Force recommendations are developed.*

As the Task Force continues to develop implementation plans for prioritized recommendations, urban and community greening concepts will be incorporated as action steps in those implementation plans, where appropriate. For example:

- The farm-to-fork implementation plan will include actions by OPR to explore local zoning barriers to urban farming and edible landscapes and disseminate the findings through the Sustainable Communities Learning Network, Local Government Roundtables, or other appropriate outreach venues.
- HiAP staff will also work with the Department of Transportation (Caltrans), CAL FIRE, and other partners to summarize existing research on the role of vegetation in improving the bicycle and pedestrian environment to support active transportation and the implementation of complete streets. These findings can also be disseminated through the aforementioned channels and/or other appropriate venues.
- In collaboration with partners, including CAL FIRE and OPR, HiAP staff will include guidance on the role of trees and vegetation in crime prevention when developing products for implementation of prioritized recommendation I.D2., "Disseminate existing guidance on Crime Prevention through Environmental Design" (CPTED).[1]

<u>Action Step 3.2</u>: *Incorporate urban and community greening concepts to support HiAP Task Force work on housing siting and air quality.*

HiAP staff will work with the California Air Resources Board, the California Environmental Protection Agency, CAL FIRE and other partners to summarize existing research on the role of vegetation in mitigating air quality impacts of busy roadways in concert with HiAP Task Force activities outlined in the previously developed and approved *Housing Siting and Air Quality Implementation Plan[11]*.

<u>Action Step 3.3</u>: *Identify and coordinate opportunities to support urban and community greening within existing interagency workgroups.*

HiAP staff will work with the staff and members of other existing state interagency workgroups to identify opportunities to incorporate strategies that support urban and community greening into their work. One workgroup for potential collaboration will be the Heat Adaptation Work Group, which includes several Task Force member agencies; this Work Group discusses, among other topics, preparedness for extreme heat events and building heat-resilient communities. At a minimum,

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[11] Housing Siting and Air Quality Implementation Plan, available at: http://www.sgc.ca.gov/meetings/20110803/aug2011-hiap-housing.doc

members of the HiAP Task Force and other state agency workgroups will be aware of each other's activities related to urban and community greening.

VI.   Workplan Summary

Duration: 3 years

Support Urban and Community Greening and Access to Green Spaces

Note: CAL FIRE will have primary responsibility for leading the implementation of this plan. HiAP staff (CDPH) will support CAL FIRE as appropriate. Additional agencies will have responsibilities as outlined in the preceding narrative.

Aspirational Goal: All Californians have access to attractive places to be active, including parks, green space, and healthy tree canopy.			
Recommendation: Support urban greening and access to green spaces.			
Action Step	**Participating Agency(ies)**	**Deliverable**	**Timeline**
Objective 1. Support the establishment of a baseline tree canopy inventory.			
1.1 Encourage local governments to conduct tree canopy assessments.	CAL FIRE, CDPH, OPR	OPR Annual Planning Survey Tree Canopy Results, updated CAL FIRE and OPR webpages (on existing website) related to urban and community forestry	January 2012 – December 2013
1.2 Share the findings of CAL FIRE's pilot project to assess San Jose area tree canopy using high-resolution satellite imagery.	CAL FIRE, CDPH, SGC, OPR	Summary document; presentation on findings at SGC meeting	December 2013– December 2014
Objective 2. Develop and disseminate information about the health, environmental, and economic co-benefits of parks, urban forests, and urban and community greening to non-traditional partners.			
2.1 Create messages that highlight the benefits of parks and greening for new target audiences.	CAL FIRE, Parks, CDPH,	Messages with target audience information	January 2012 – October

				2012
2.2	Encourage local implementation of urban and community greening through message and resource dissemination.	CAL FIRE, Parks, OPR, SGC, CDPH	Updated OPR webpage, OPR Local Government Roundtable meeting minutes	October 2012 – December 2012
Objective 3. Coordinate urban and community greening opportunities across other HiAP Task Force implementation activities and with other state agency workgroups.				
3.1	Incorporate action steps that advance urban and community greening as implementation plans for other Task Force recommendations are developed.	CDPH, HiAP Task Force	Action steps related to community greening in completed implementation plans	September 2011 – January 2012
3.2	Incorporate urban and community greening concepts to support HiAP Task Force work on housing siting and air quality.	CDPH, HCD, ARB, EPA, CAL FIRE	Document summarizing existing research	January 2012 – August 2012
3.3	Identify and coordinate opportunities to support urban and community greening within existing interagency workgroups.	CDPH, HiAP Task Force, state workgroups	Awareness across workgroups of each others' efforts to support greening	October 2011 – December 2012

ARB: California Air Resources Board   CAL FIRE: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CDPH: Department of Public Health   EPA: California Environmental Protection Agency
Parks: Department of Parks and Recreation   SGC: Strategic Growth Council

VII.   Cross Cutting Themes

A. Interagency Collaboration
State agencies will work together to infuse urban and community greening needs and activities into a number of different project areas, including, but not limited to, transportation, healthy food access, air quality, and violence prevention. Additionally, successful implementation of this recommendation and advancement towards increased urban and community greening and access to green spaces will require collaboration with a variety of non-governmental organizations.

B. Equity
The benefits of urban and community greening can elude low-income and racial/ethnic minority neighborhoods which have the least access to parks and other outdoor open and green spaces.[12] Because greening has extensive health, environmental, and climate change benefits, ensuring that communities have equal access to these benefits is a primary concern of the Task Force. By improving tree canopy assessment, this project will help identify areas of need, and by broadly disseminating resources and messaging on the co-benefits of community greening and urban forestry, the Task Force will increase communities' knowledge of the existing data and findings and broaden the range of engaged stakeholders working to advance community greening.

C. Community Engagement
Local governments will be engaged through message development and resource dissemination to promote greening activities, including through OPR's Local Government Roundtables. As the Task Force collaborates with non-governmental partners in message development and resource dissemination, there will be an opportunity for broader engagement in greening activities.

D. Data
The proposed actions include gathering, interpreting, and disseminating data. In this project, the State will provide tools for local data collection and analysis, as well as directly provide data to support local community greening efforts.

VIII.   Evaluation

Given limited resources for this project, evaluation will be limited to ensuring timely completion of deliverables.

IX.   Contact

To learn more about the Health in All Policies Task Force, visit www.sgc.ca.gov/hiap/ or e-mail HiAP@cdph.ca.gov.

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[12] Lisa M. Powell, Sandy Slater and Frank J. Chaloupka. "The Relationship Between Community Physical Activities Settings and Race, Ethnicity and Socioeconomic Status," *Evidence-Based Preventive Medicine* 1, no. 2 (2004): 135-144.